

HA-1392

1869, 1881

The Holden Building
25-27 Courtland Street
Bel Air
private

This give bay brick colonial revival building holds within two former buildings, one built in 1869 and the other in 1881. They were probably much like the Harford Democrat Building at 21 Courtland before it too became colonial - that is, a three bay two story building with a side entrance. The east building was built by Frank B. Glenn in 1869. It was an oyster house and restaurant until local option forced Mr. Glenn into the greengrocery business. Subsequently, it housed the law offices of Stevenson A. Williams, J.T.C. Hopkins, and Judge Price. The west building was built in time to become the first home of the Harford National Bank in 1884. It also held the County Law Library. Since that time both buildings have held law offices.

The facade uniting the buildings dates from the ownership of Glasgow Archer, Jr., in the 1930's. The colonial doorway is a more recent addition. The bracketed cornice is especially fine.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1392
1313924511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Holden Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

25 - 27 Courtland Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bel Air

— VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☒ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gwynne L. Holden

Telephone #: 838-4888

STREET & NUMBER

25 - 27 Courtland St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

NA-1592

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay, two story common bond brick office building with a slate hipped roof and decorative brackets supporting the thin cornice is at 25 - 27 Courtland Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. Today it presents a vaguely colonial look; it acquired a broken pediment sometime after 1960. The coherent facade (north elevation) disguises the fact that this was two buildings as late as 1932. No picture of the buildings has been found, but since they were built at the same time as the B G & E Building, they probably looked like it: a three bay structure with entrance in either side bay. The windows are 6/1 double hung sash set in moulded surrounds with wooden sills and flat arched tops with a bead at the top. There are six windows across the second story front, the center two being slightly irregularly spaced. In 1960 the center entrance showed a brick flat arch over a single pane transom. The glass door was flanked by long single pane side lights. Today there is a broken pediment supported by pilasters framing the entrance. The transom remains. The door (to the west) is aluminum framed and has a solid pane to the east as a companion. One step led up to the door; Courtland Street slopes to the west here and the top of one cellar window shows in the west end bay.

The west elevation on the alley shows the building has been doubled in length. The side and rear elevations (west and south) are painted white. The front has been sand blasted.

The windows in the back are different. Three windows, two to the east and one to the west, 1/1 double hung sash occupy the second story. The first story has a 12 pane window to the west and a door and a 10 pane long window to the east.

The interior was substantially changed when the two buildings were thrown together and given a new facade after 1932. There is now a center hall with a single run staircase rising against the east wall. The hall runs the length of the building and is flanked on both sides by lawyers offices.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1868; 1881 (?)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The handsome "colonial" facade of 25 - 27 Courtland Street actually draws together two mid-nineteenth century buildings into one modern office building, an example of the continued re-use and modification of Bel Air buildings, particularly those on Courthouse Square.

The east half was built in 1869 by Frank B. Glenn on a lease from Stump, Archer, and Archer. It became an oyster house run by James Lytle until he left in 1871 to run the restaurant in Stagmer's Hotel. The restaurant was managed by Glenn until 1874 when he closed it because of the local option law and opened a green grocery in the building. In 1877 he defaulted on the mortgage and the property was sold to Stevenson A. Williams and J. Thomas C. Hopkins who promptly moved their offices into the building. Judge Price also had his office there. The organizers of the Harford National Bank met there in 1882. Stevenson A. Williams apparently maintained offices there until his death in 1932. Hopkins moved next door in 1890.

The history of the second building (the west half) is more obscure. George G. Jeffery leased the land from Stump, Archer, and Archer in 1868 (21/45); the lease required him to build a building there. He sold the lease to Thomas Armstrong a month later (21/88). At the time of the purchase Thomas Armstrong had a tailor shop over Bouldin's Store on Office Street (the Lee Building at #20). In 1876 Armstrong opened a bakery at Main and Howard. In November 1877 Joseph Skinner had a tobacco shop and telegraph office "two doors from the Democrat" office which may have been in this building. In 1880 Armstrong sold the lease to Bernard Dunnigan and his wife Barbara (who already leased the rest of the block of Courtland Street west to Bond); Armstrong then left Bel Air for Baltimore City where he became a policeman.

Dunnigan sold the frame building on the lot to E. J. B. Moore who moved it to Bond Street. The Harford Democrat of May 7, 1880, remarked that it was the second move for the old frame building. Dunnigan had planned to build a three story brick building on the lot but instead he sold the lease in December of 1881 to Stevenson A. Williams and J.T.C. Hopkins, the owners of the east building. They appear to have built the present two story brick building in time for it to house the new Harford National Bank downstairs in 1884. That same year the law library was established with J.T.C. Hopkins as president. It rented one room upstairs behind the law offices of Messrs. Bradford and Lyle. Hopkins became president of the new Second National Bank in 1888 and in

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #838 in the Town of Bel Air, 40' x 71'

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

17 July 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1890 he and W. W. Preston moved their law offices into the west building after the Harford National Bank moved to its new home on Wall Street

The 1904 insurance map shows two L-shaped buildings, the east building a few feet deeper than the west.

Hopkins died in 1922 and in 1931 Williams acquired full title to both buildings (218/459). Williams died in February, 1932. He had mortgaged both buildings for \$6,000 soon after he acquired full title. He or his estate defaulted on the mortgage and the buildings were sold to Glasgow Archer, Jr. for \$12,950 (223/346). It was he who built the present facade uniting the buildings and extended the rear of the present structure.

All of the above relates to the lease and the buildings. The fee was vested in Stump, Archer, and Archer (who had purchased it from Ann and Martha Robinson in 1867 by 19/217) until they divided the property, this lot going to Henry Archer (26/246). When he died he left it in trust for his daughters (will 10/293). Ann Archer acquired title in her own name in 1890 (66/336); when Ann Archer de Goll died in 1927 she left it in trust in the hands of the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore. In 1948 Glasgow Archer bought the fee for \$500 under the reversion clause of his lease (322/469). That November he sold it to the present owner, Gwynne L. Holden (222/473). It houses lawyers' offices today.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1392

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Holden Building

COUNTY: Harford
TOWN: Bel Air
LOCATION: 25 - 27 Courtland
Bel Air, Md. 21014

COMMON NAME: Holden Bldg.

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Commercial

OWNER: Gwynne L. Holden
ADDRESS: 25 - 27 Courtland
Bel Air, Md. 21014

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes () No () Restricted (X)

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Local (X) State () National ()

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
Glenn Bldg./ Armstrong Bldg.
PRESENT USE: Offices
ORIGINAL USE: Commercial/offices
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent (X) Good ()
Fair () Poor: ()

THEME: Architecture
STYLE: Vernacular

DATE BUILT:
1868: 1881

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone () Brick (X) Concrete () Concrete Block ()
2. Wall Structure
 - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick () Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap ()
Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle ()
Brick Veneer (X) Stone Veneer ()
Bonding Pattern: English Other:
4. Roof Structure
 - A. Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel () Concrete ()
 - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate (X) Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal ()
Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches () Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds () Ells ()
Wings () Other:

Roof Style: Gable () Hip (X) Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()
Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet () With False Front ()
Other:

Number of Stories: 2

Number of Bays: 5

Approximate Dimensions: 40 x 70

Entrance Location: Courtland St.

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat (X) Zoning () Roads ()
Development () Deterioration ()
Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive (X) Negative ()
Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Carved brackets under thin molded cornice
 6 windows w/p 6/1 in molded surrounds w flat wooden arch & sill
 5 bay 1st story same windows
 entrance pilasters support broken pediment
 single pane transom over (e) solid pane & (w) door framed in aluminum
 Center hall plan staircase up e. wall of hall

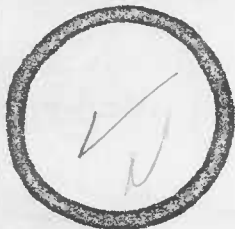
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Originally 2 buildings commercial & office space
 Harford National Bank 1st office in w. half
 Law library up in same bldg.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
 Residential() Commercial(X)
 Agricultural() Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

27 July 1979

DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: THE HOLDEN BUILDING
25-27 Courtland Street

The Fee

322/473

5 November 1948
 J. Glasgow Archer, Jr. and Mary, wife
 to
 Gwynne L. Holden and Jean, wife

322/469

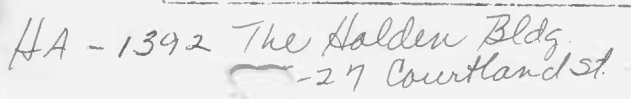
13 October 1948
 Safe Deposit and Trust Company of
 Baltimore, Trustee
 to
 J. Glasgow Archer, Jr.
 \$500 Archer held the lease and bought the
 land under the reversion clause in the
 lease
 This is part of the Stump, Archer and
 Archer land from Farnandis, trustee and
 Ann and Martha Robinson (1867, 19/217).
 Henry Archer acquired the reversion by
 26/246 and died, leaving it to his son
 Robert Archer in trust for his (Henry's)
 daughters. (will 10/293). See also
 66/336 (1890), Robert Archer, trustee,
 to Ann Archer. Ann Archer de Goll
 died in 1927 and left it in trust in
 the hands of the Safe Deposit and
 Trust Company (will 19/10).

The lease

223/346

15 June 1932
 Philip H. Close, Attorney, and Ariel
 E. Williams
 to
 J. Glasgow Archer, Jr. \$12,950
 Stephenson A. Williams held the lease
 on the two buildings which form the
 Holden Building. Ariel E. Williams
 was his widow. The conveyance is in
 connection with an equity case,
 equity 134/352, 1932. Stevenson A.
 Williams and his estate had defaulted
 on a mortgage (May, 1931) of \$6,000
 to the Fireside Permanent Building
 Association. The court ordered the
 sale of the leases of the two buildings.
 They were offered separately at public
 auction and failed to meet their reserve
 price and so were withdrawn. They were
 subsequently sold privately to Archer.

218/459	22 May 1931 Fred H. Williams, attorney to Stevenson A. Williams J.T.C. Hopkins share in both leases
#1	25 Courtland (the East half)
35/152	17 May 1877 Stevenson Archer of John to Stevenson A. Williams & J. Thomas C. Hopkins ground rent \$30 per annum
35/153	17 May 1877 Stevenson A. Williams, trustee to Stevenson Archer the Glenn property was ordered sold as the result of a defaulted mortgage. price \$1200
22/231	28 May 1869 Stump, Archer, and Archer to Frank B. Glenn lease 20 ft. frontage Glenn to erect and keep a brick building at least two stories high
#2	27 Courtland (the West half)
43/474	29 December 1881 Bernard Dunnigan and Barbara, wife to S. A. Williams and J.T.C. Hopkins
41/295	10 June 1880 Thomas Armstrong and Elizabeth, wife to Bernard Dunnigan and Barbara, wife
21/88	13 October 1868 George G. Jeffery to Thomas Armstrong
21/45	15 September 1868 Stump, Archer and Archer to George G. Jeffery 99 year lease \$30 a year he to build a building



HA-1342 The Halden Bldg.
-27 Courtland St.

2007 LAND STREET

S 40° 34 E 710'
Wall of Archer Bldg
Alley
Wall of Ayres Bldg

John D Worthington Jr
Deed - 9-25-36 SWC 242-189

5.034 A 81 38
71.00

Caroline H Boardman

Board of Education

The Gas & Electric Co
540° 34 E 66.75

Annie Sheridan

1968

JDW
- 29 44
GCC
284 32
540 44E
186

John D Worthington Jr
1947

Devises
of
Theresa McC Worthington
to
John D. Worthington.
1952

10 2/64

Herbert Hopkins

BOND STREET 66 W.L.

Rec'd for record 4/17/26 1. M.
Same day recorded & examined, per
Garland E. Gregg, Clerk

Plat. reduced 25% for photostat purposes.

GLENN C. DEATON
ENGINEER & SURVEYOR
BEL AIR, MD.

G. D. TOWN OF BEL AIR, MD
PROPERTIES OF
JOHN D. WORTHINGTON JR

Scab 1" 20'

6147





L + D R B69E BLDG, 23 COURTLAND + HOLDEN
BLDG, 27 COURTLAND
BEL AIR

NORTH ELEVATIONS

MILAREW, 1978

HA - 1392





Holden Bldg.

HA-1392

THIS PHOTOGRAPH
By: W. Robert Wallis
Fountain Green Road
Bel Air, Md.